FACT

(i) Waiver of outstanding interest amounting to Rs. 226.88 crore for the period from 1998-99 to 2001-02 on the OECF loan drawn from the Government of India by FACT for its Ammonia Project at Udyogamandal.

(ii) Moratorium on principal repayment of FACT up to 31.3.2002 on the balance OECF loan amounting to Rs. 378.20 crore drawn from Government of India.

(iii) Waiving levy of penal interest on FACT for past defaults in repayment of principal and interest of the OECF loan after assistance as at (i) & (ii) above.

MFL

(i) Waiver of interest amounting to Rs. 65 crore out of the outstanding interest as on 31.3.2002 on the loans availed by MFL from the Government for the Revamp Project.

White Paper on Union Carbide

370. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bhopal Gas tragedy affected people have demanded a White Paper on criminal proceedings against the Union Carbide and immediate distribution of Rs. 1500 crore compensation still left with the Central and State Governments through a memorandum submitted to Prime Minister on 29th October, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details of their demands and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Government have seen press report containing a proposal for a White Paper on the issue of criminal proceedings against Union Carbide and related

matters. No memorandum has, however, been received in this connection.

Closure of Sick Units of HFCL and FCI

371. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to close down three sick units of the Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation and Fertilizer Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the financial status of these units, the number of employees employed in each of these units and the amount due to these employees by way of arrears of wages and alongwith other statutory dues; and

(c) the steps being taken to pay these arrears and the compensation proposed to be paid, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have decided to close down Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) excepting its Jodhpur Mining Organisation.

(b) and (c) The accumulated losses of HFCL and FCI as on 31.3.2002 were Rs. 6725.88 crore and Rs. 7921.00 crore and a manpower of 4884 and 5712 as on 30.9.2002, respectively. The Government has been providing budgetary support to these companies for meeting the expenditure on salary/wages including statutory dues of their employees. The employees of these companies have been offered benefits under the Voluntary Separation Scheme.